

**REMARKS**

The preliminary amendment to the claims to the subject patent application is submitted prior to the first Official Action of the Examiner on the merit.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to clarify the subject matter of the invention. None of the amendments involve any new matter.

Consideration of the preliminary amendments is respectfully requested.

The preliminary amendment is accompanied by Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement citing the International Search Report obtained by the Applicant in course of a foreign counterpart prosecution. The Search Examiner cited the abstracts of Japanese patent publications JP 2000-197943 and JP 2000-254754 and European Patent Publication EP 0818548 as particular relevant prior art. The Applicant submits herewith the translation of the cited Japanese documents. None of the cited references requests that during forging the billet is subjected to the axial compression  $P_1$ , while preventing at the same time the radial expansion.

For example, the reference JP 2000-254754 (please see Fig. 3 and paragraph 0005 of the English translation) discloses a method of obtaining a rotor which comprises the step of forge molding a blank (6) by inserting this blank into a die (4) and then pressing it by means of a punch (7). The die is shaped so that a plurality of vanes is formed in the rotor during the axial movement of the blank along the die (4). Accordingly, the die is not intended to obtain a compression of the blank as disclosed by the present invention, but instead it is provided to form the radial blades.

It is believed that the claims pending in the subject application clearly distinguish the claimed invention and the prior art references cited in the International Search Report.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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